

**EdBlast! —All
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October 6, 2006**

Editor's Note: In recent weeks, a technical problem beyond our control has prevented the dissemination of EdBlast!. This problem has been resolved. We apologize and appreciate your patience as we worked to return this newsletter to its regular schedule.

Message from the State Superintendent of Education

Next month, South Carolina school leaders who want to create successful learning experiences for all students have a unique training opportunity. On November 9 and 10, Dr. Mel Levine will bring his "Educational Care for All Kinds of Minds" seminar to Charleston.

Levine and his staff will speak about his groundbreaking approach of using the science of learning to understand every student's strengths and weaknesses. Specially, participants will:

- Gain an awareness of eight neurodevelopmental constructs that make up an individual's unique learning profile;
- Learn how to apply neurodevelopmental understanding to help students improve scores on state and national writing assessments;
- Discover ways to work with your school team to apply new strategies to your specific school setting;
- Envision how to help students succeed by using the "Educational Care" approach;
- Practice analyzing the neurodevelopment demands of curriculum; and
- Explore how students' neurodevelopmental profiles affect their learning.

I encourage school principals, staff development specialists, special education directors, Title I directors, and teacher leaders to join Dr. Levine and his staff in unraveling the mysteries of learning.

For more information about the Charleston workshop visit:

<http://allkindsofminds.org/educationalcare/index.aspx>

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Education Department releases annual federal school accountability report

The State Department of Education has released 2006 data in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act. To read about Adequate Yearly Progress, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=704>

State awarded grant to promote nutrition and physical activity

The State Department of Education is one of 14 state agencies nationwide that will share \$4 million in training grants announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. For more information, go to:

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=703>

South Carolina one of only three states praised for nation's highest standards

In a follow-up report to its original 2005 research, the national journal Education Next has again praised South Carolina for setting the nation's highest standards for academic proficiency. In addition, the journal again dramatized how the federal No Child Left Behind Act can produce misleading information on school performance across the nation.

<http://ed.sc.gov/news/more.cfm?articleID=702>

Metric Week celebration set

October 8-14 is Metric Week in South Carolina. Many companies are gradually producing products to metric system standards. The jobs of tomorrow will require

employees to be able to use metric units. For more information on ideas to celebrate Metric Week, visit:

<http://www.nctm.org/meetings/metric-week.htm>
http://www.nist.gov/public_affairs/kids/kidsmain.htm
<http://www.hrsm.sc.edu/jordan/>

Grant writing workshop set

The State Department of Education's grant writing workshop, "From Reading the Guidelines to Submitting the Proposal," will be held December 4-6, 2006. The registration deadline is 5:00 p.m., November 15, 2006. To enroll, visit:

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/grants/2006GrantWritingWorkshopSeries.html>

SC MAPS wants to know how they can help

SC MAPS is an interdisciplinary program that teaches students the skills they need for PACT testing in math, science, language arts and social studies by using the natural, physical, and cultural features of South Carolina in combination with background information and visuals, such as satellite images, aerial photographs and topographic maps. SC MAPS is now conducting a survey to find out more information about the use of the program. To take the survey, visit:

<http://www.clemson.edu/scmaps>

Instructional issues conference planned

State Teacher of the Year Buffy Murphy and Charles R. Smith, Jr., a photographer and children's author, headline an instructional issues conference sponsored by the South Carolina Education Association scheduled for October 14 in Columbia. For registration information, contact Kayetta Meadows (kmeadows@thescea.org) at 803-551-4136.

Children encouraged to write troops overseas

The Operation kids 4 Troops web site is a vehicle to help young people reach out to members of the military serving overseas. Names and addresses of loved ones serving overseas in a combat area can be added to the "Hero List." For more information, visit:

<http://www.kids4troops.com/index.html>

University of Iowa offers special graduate assistantships

The College of Education at the University of Iowa has special assistantships in education available to persons wanting to pursue graduate study in several fields of study. The stipends are \$16,730. The deadline is March 2, 2007. For more information, write:

Chair, SGA Selection Committee, The University of Iowa, 340 Lindquist Center, Iowa City, IA 52242-1529 or visit:

<http://www.uiowa.edu/>

Schools invited to apply for Excellence in Education award

The National Center for Urban School Transformation helps urban school districts by recognizing, studying, and promoting the best practices of very high achieving urban schools. Applications will be accepted for the center's Excellence in Education award until December 18. For more information, call 619-594-7905 or visit:

<http://edweb.sdsu.edu/ncust/awards/>

Poster contest educates young people about safety

The American Traffic Safety Services Foundation's Life "Behind the Cones and Barrels – How Roadway Workers Keep America Moving" poster contest educates young people about work zone safety before they begin to drive. Winners receive cash prizes, with a matching gift going to each winner's school. Submissions must be received by March 15. For more information, contact Melanie Myers or Lori Wilcox at 540-368-1701 or visit:

<http://www.atssa.com/page.wv?section=The+Foundation&name=Poster+Contest>

Praxis workshops planned

The Palmetto State Teachers Association is sponsoring Praxis I and II workshops on Saturday, October 21. The workshops will be held at Lexington Town Hall in Lexington. Praxis I will be held from 10 am. – 1 p.m. The cost is \$10. Praxis II will be from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. The cost is \$10 for PSTA members and \$25 for nonmembers. For more information, call 803.256.2065.

Council on economic education offering workshops

The South Carolina Council on Economic Education is offering several free workshops for teachers. Topics for the one-day workshops include math and economics connections, economics and history integration, and personal finance. A four-day residential workshop will help middle and high school teachers develop an understanding of how market solutions may be used to deal with environmental issues. For more information, contact Donna Windham at 803-777-2968 and visit:

<http://www.sceconomics.org/>

United States Senate Youth Program offering scholarships

The United States Senate Youth Program, funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation, is again offering scholarships and recognition to South Carolina's juniors and seniors. The competition is open to students who currently serve in an elected student government capacity and who otherwise qualify as specified in the USSYP brochure. For additional information, contact Beth Cope (bcope@ed.sc.gov) or visit the Foundation's website:

<http://www.usenateyouth.org>

<http://www.poetryoutloud.org>

Lowe's program accepting applications

To empower parents and further encourage their involvement in their children's schools, Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation has established the Lowe's Toolbox for Education grant program to fund school improvement projects initiated by parents. Lowe's will donate a total of \$5 million to schools and school parent teacher groups at more than 1,000 different schools in 2006 and 2007. For more information, visit:

<http://www.lowes.com/lowes/lkn?action=pg&p=AboutLowes/Community>

Target launches new field trip grants program

As part of the Target commitment to supporting education, the new Target Field Trip Grants program will award U.S. educators grants of \$1,000 each to fund a field trip for their students. To learn more, go to:

<http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-002537>

National Education Association offers arts grants to teachers

The National Education Association Fine Arts Grants Program is designed to enable fine arts teachers to create and implement fine arts programs that promote learning among students at risk of school failure. To find out about the application process, go to:

http://www.neafoundation.org/programs/FineArts_Guidelines.htm

Duke talent search underway

The Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP) 7th Grade Talent Search is underway. For more information, go to:

http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent_searches/grade_7/

http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent_searches/grade_7/7TS_Coordinator%27s_Guide.pdf

http://www.tip.duke.edu/talent_searches/grade_7/test_and_test_dates.html

Storytelling Day at Charles Towne Landing planned

Cannons will boom, natives will drum and dance, and ghosts will rise from their graves on Saturday, October 21, 2006 when storytellers from across South Carolina gather to present programs during the 4th annual South Carolina Storytelling Day at Charles Towne Landing State Historic Site. All events on Storytelling Day are free with regular park admission. For more information call the Storytelling Day Director, Tim Lowry (timlowry@surfguardian.net) at 843-324-1366 or visit:

<http://www.storytellertimlowry.com/>

Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities offers several programs

The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities offers several programs in creative writing, drama, music and visual arts. Offerings range from intensive two-week programs for rising ninth graders and tenth graders to a summer dance program and teacher institutes. For more information, e-mail admissions@scgsah.state.sc.us or atromsness@scgsah.state.sc.us, or visit:

www.scgsah.state.sc.us

Evans is October honoree

When Etu Evans was a middle school student in Orangeburg, his teachers told his mother not to expect too much from him. The underachieving student, who rarely spoke up in class, belonged on a track for slow learners, they said. Today Etu Evans is one of the world's up-and-coming shoe designers, adding his \$2,500-a-pair boots could one day land him among industry heavyweights. To read more, visit:

<http://scafricanamerican.com/ed/12006.html>

This issue's quotation

The lands are lit
With all of the autumn blaze of golden-rod,
And everywhere the purple asters nod
And bend and wave and flit. ~ H. Hunt Jackson

EdBlast! welcomes submissions

Do you need help in publicizing an education news item that would be of interest to a statewide audience? Send your information to jfairnot@ed.sc.gov or call Janice Larrimore Fairnot, EdBlast! editor, at 803-734-8999.

Spread the word about EdBlast!

We need your help in spreading the word about EdBlast!, the State Department of Education's e-newsletter. Here's the sign-up link:

<http://ed.sc.gov/tools/edblast/>

Thanks for sharing!